

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 29089 071613Z

73-61

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 /020 W

----- 046887

R 071604Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4974

UNCLAS PARIS 29089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

REF: STATE 262240

1. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SEASONAL-ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE PER SE RESULTS IN UNDERSTATEMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE.

2. INCREASE IN UNADJUSTED NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED WAS NOT GREATER IN SEPTEMBER 1975 THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1974 AS STATED PARA. 2 REFTEL. PERCENT INCREASE FROM AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER WAS 18.7 IN 1975, 24.7 IN 1974. (FOR SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED FIGURES, PERCENT CHANGES WERE PLUS 2.1 IN SEPTEMBER 1975, PLUS 7.3 IN 1974. # AEN ADJUSTED AND UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES COMPARED FOR EACH OF PAST 12 MONTHS, RATIOS ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE FOR SAME MONTH OF PRECEDING YEAR -- I.E., SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED FIGURE WAS 93 PERCENT OF UNADJUSTED FIGURE IN SEPTEMBER 1975 AND IN SEPTEMBER 1974; 108 PERCENT IN AUGUST OF BOTH YEARS; ETC.

THIS MATTER DISCUSSED INITIALLY IN PARIS A-535 OF 1974, FOLLOWING GOF'S REVISION OF PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT FOR SEASONAL VARIATIONS. KEY TESTS OF ANY SUCH PROCESS ARE (A) WHETHER MONTH-TO-MONTH FLUCTUATIONS ARE EFFECTIVELY SMOOTHED TO TREND LINE, AND (B) WHETHER AVERAGE OF ADJUSTED FIGURES OVER ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 29089 071613Z

DOES NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY (E.G., BY MORE THAN

2 PERCENT) FROM THAT FOR UNADJUSTED FIGURES. CURRENT PROCEDURE USED BY GOF PASSES BOTH TESTS.

3. REGARDING QUESTION OF PUBLIC REACTION, IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT MORE ADVERSE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE IS LIKELY TO MAKE NEWS. SINCE SEASONAL-ADJUSTMENT PROCESS ACTS TO SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES DOWNSIDE DURING FALL AND WINTER (SEPTEMBER-FEBRUARY), UNADJUSTED FIGURES ARE THE MORE LIKELY ONES TO CAPTURE PUBLIC ATTENTION IN COMING MONTHS.

4. SUCH QUESTIONS ASIDE, MORE FUNDAMENTAL POINT IN OUR VIEW CONCERNS RELIABILITY OF OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT DATA THEMSELVES -- ADJUSTED OR NOT. AS NOTED PARIS A-322, BOTH UNDERSTATEMENT AND OVERSTATEMENT OF "ACTUAL" UNEMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN ALLEGED BY DIFFERENT OBSERVERS HERE. LABOR MINISTRY HAS RECENTLY INITIATED SURVEY TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF SUCH DISCREPANCIES, AND RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED WHEN AVAILABLE.

5. OTHER REPORTS SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY IN RECENT WEEKS WHICH DEAL INTER ALIA WITH FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION ARE PARIS 26208, 27107, 28538, AND 28586.  
RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS29089  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750388-0566  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751163/aaaaceqg.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 262240  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 OCT 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS  
**TAGS:** EALR, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006